

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LOCKHEED - SPECIAL ENVOY, DIET DELEGATION

SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO AN ASAHI WASHINGTON DESPATCH, SOME WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ARE "PERPLEXED" BY GOJ INTENTION TO SEND A SPECIAL ENVOY ON LOCKHEED ISSUE NOW THAT JUSTICE CHANNEL HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR SHARING OF INFORMATION. DISPATCH OF LOCKHEED ENVOY DATES AT LEAST FROM FEBRUARY 28 DIET JOINT RESOLUTION ON LOCKHEED. OPPOSITION HAD ORIGINALLY PRESSED FOR ENVOY IDEA TO SECURE AMERICAN DISCLOSURE OF LOCKHEED INFORMATION. WHEN JUSTICE CHANNEL WAS ESTABLISHED, HOWEVER, OPPOSITION BEGAN PRESSING GOJ TO RENEGOTIATE INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT. GOJ FINALLY REACHED COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON SPECIAL ENVOY IN FINAL DIET NORMALIZATION PACKAGE WHEN OPPOSITION DROPPED DEMAND FOR RENEGOTIATION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ENVOY HAD BEEN SUFFICIENTLY FUZZED. DECISION ON SPECIAL ENVOY IS NOW EXPECTED AT APRIL 30 CABINET MEETING. DECISION ON DIET DELEGATION

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IS MOVING VERY SLOWLY. END SUMMARY.

1. APRIL 24 ASAHI CARRIES BRIEF DESPATCH FROM WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MURAKAMI STATING THAT US OFFICIALS ARE "PERPLEXED" BY GOJ INTENTION TO DISPATCH A SPECIAL ENVOY AND DIET DELEGATION TO US IN CONNECTION WITH LOCKHEED AFFAIR. DESPATCH QUOTES JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES AS NOTING THAT ALL RELEVANT LOCKHEED INFORMATION HAS EITHER BEEN DISCLOSED OR TRANSMITTED TO JAPAN UNDER INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT, WHICH CHURCH COMMITTEE ALSO HAS AGREED TO RESPECT, AND WONDERING, THEREFORE, WHY DISPATCH OF SPECIAL MISSIONS IS NECSSSARY. STATE SOURCES ARE QUOTED AS SPECULATING THAT DISPATCH OF MISSIONS IS RELATED TO GOJ EFFORT TO NORMALIZE DIET AND THAT EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO ARRANGE APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS, BUT IT MAY BE DIFFICULT IN VIEW OF BUSY SCHEDULES OF SENIOR OFFICIALS.

2. THE IDEA TO DISPATCH A SPECIAL ENVOY ON THE LOCKHEED PROBLEM WAS WRITTEN INTO THE FEBRUARY 23 JOINT DIET RESOLUTION ON THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY ALL PARTIES. NEITHER THE GOJ NOR THE LDP WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THEN OR NOW, BUT THE OPPOSITION HAS CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR IT VIGOROUSLY AS A PART OF ITS CAMPAIGN TO FORCE THE GOJ TO DISCLOSE FULLY THE NAMES OF "HIGH JAPANESE OFFICIALS" ALLEGED TO HAVE ACTED IMPROPERLY ON LOCKHEED'S BEHALF. THE OPPOSITION ORIGINALLY FAVORED SPECIAL ENVOY DISPATCH AS A MEANS OF PERSUADING THE USG TO DISCLOSE PUBLICLY ITSELF - OR PRESSURE JAPANESE DISCLOSURE - OF THOSE NAMES. AFTER THE AGREEMENT TO TRANSFER LOCKHEED MATERIALS IN JUSTICE CHANNELS WAS REACHED, THE OPPOSITION SHIFTED TO DISPATCH OF A SPECIAL ENVOY TO "RENEGOTIATE" THAT AGREEMENT TO SECURE FULL DISCLOSURE. LATER STILL, THEY SIMPLY INSISTED ON DISPATCH OF AN ENVOY.

3. MIKI, HIMSELF, MADE SEVERAL ENCOURAGING REMARKS ABOUT THE SPECIAL ENVOY IDEA AND MAY HAVE COUNTED ON IT TO HELP HIM WIN POPULAR SYMPATHY. HE ATTEMPTED, HOWEVER, TO HEAD IT OFF AT HIS APRIL 10 PRESS CONFERENCE WHEN HE REALIZED THAT THE USG WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC. HE WAS ULTIMATELY FORCED TO ACCEPT THE SPECIAL ENVOY CONCEPT IN THE FINAL COMPROMISE ON DIET NORMALIZATION, HOWEVER, BY WHICH TIME THE OPPOSITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD GIVEN UP ITS INSISTENCE ON RENEGOTIATION AND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ROLE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY HAD BEEN SUFFICIENTLY FUZZED. DISPATCH OF A DIET DELEGATION BECAME A PART OF THE FINAL COMPROMISE PACKAGE AT THE SAME TIME.

4. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE GOJ HAS NOT YET NAMED THE SPECIAL ENVOY OR DECIDED WHEN HE WILL DEPART. PM MIKI TOLD THE PRESS APRIL 26 THAT HE EXPECTED A CABINET

DECISION ON APRIL 30 AND THAT NUMBER OF CANDIDATES HAD BEEN REDUCED. IN A CONVERSATION OVER THE WEEKEND, MIKI CONFIDANTE, KAZUSHIGE HIRASAWA, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT USHIBA AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE UK MORI WERE THE LEADING CONTENDERS. HIRASAWA SAID THAT A CABINET-LEVEL ENVOY WAS PROBABLY NOT IN THE CARDS BECAUSE OF THE DIET SESSION AND THE FACT THAT HE WOULD MOST LIKELY RETURN EMPTY-HANDED. HE SUGGESTED THAT A SPECIAL CHARTER MIGHT INCLUDE: "CLOSING THE COMMUNICATIONS GAP" BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND JAPANESE PEOPLE REGARDING LOCKHEED: CARRYING ON CONSULTATIONS ON HOW TO HANDLE SUCH PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE: AND EXPLAINING TO US OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC HOW JAPAN VIEWS - AND HOPES TO HANDLE - THE LOCKHEED PROBLEM. ON TIMING, HIRASAWA SAID THAT THE PM IS CONSIDERING MID-MAY. HE ADDED THAT THE ENVOY MIGHT ALSO VISIT NEW YORK, CHICAGO, AND OTHER CITIES FOR TALKS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS.

5. THE DIET HAS NOT YET MOVED TO FORM SPECIAL LOCKHEED COMMITTEES AND DISCUSSIONS ON THE COMPOSITION OF A DIET DELEGATION HAVE MADE LITTLE PROGRESS SINCE DIET PROCEEDINGS RESUMED LAST WEEK.

6. COMMENT. MIKI AGREEMENT TO OPPOSITION DEMAND FOR SPECIAL ENVOY WAS INNOCUOUS, FACE-SAVING GESTURE HE WAS FORCED TO MAKE TO THE OPPOSITION IN ORDER TO SECURE ITS AGREEMENT TO DIET NORMALIZATION. GOJ CLEARLY HAS NO INTENTION OF GIVING SPECIAL ENVOY WRIT TO RENEGOTIATE LOCKHEED INFORMATION AGREEMENT AND IS HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY BOTH IN DRAFTING TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ENVOY AND SELECTING PROPER INDIVIDUAL. NOW THAT MIKI HAS MADE THE COMMITMENT, HOWEVER, IT IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT A SPECIAL ENVOY WILL ULTIMATELY BE DISPATCHED, THAT HIS WRIT WILL BE IN THE MOST INNOCUOUS TERMS AND THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON HIS RETURN HE WILL BE ABLE TO REPORT THAT HE HAD SUCCEEDED IN DEEPENING "MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING," ETC. DISPATCH OF DIET DELEGATION IS ANOTHER MATTER, HOWEVER, AND GIVEN THE SLOW PACE OF DIET ACTION ON THIS QUESTION, THERE IS EVEN A REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT IT MAY NOT BE REALIZED DURING THE CURRENT DIET SESSION.
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